

Public Notice

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON USE OF SWANN PARK

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 Net Benefit Agreement

Project Description

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) are studying proposed infrastructure improvements to address traffic needs in the Port Covington area. The improvements being studied are meant to ensure the Interstate 95 (I-95) corridor and major local roads, including Hanover Street, McComas Street, and Key Highway, will continue to connect people to where they live, work, and play in a safe and efficient manner, while supporting the economic development of communities in the south Baltimore region. A large-scale, private development for the Port Covington area was previously approved by Baltimore City and is ongoing.

MDTA is requesting your feedback on the following:

The I-95 Access Improvements project involves the use, closure, and relocation of Swann Park. The park is a public recreational resource protected by Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

The construction of a new off ramp from I-95 northbound to East McComas Street would accommodate the increased transportation demand on I-95 and the surrounding transportation network. Swann Park, as it exists today, would be impacted by the construction and operation of the I-95 Access Improvements project. Therefore, Swann Park would be closed prior to construction. However, as part of Baltimore City's approved Port Covington Master Plan, Swann Park will be relocated south, to the western portion of the peninsula. The new park will be approximately 27 acres and include all of the amenities of existing Swann Park, as well as additional facilities. Between the closing of the current park and the opening of the relocated park, there may be a limited time period when park resources are unavailable for recreational use.

MDTA and BCDOT seek a Section 4(f) Net Benefit Agreement for Swann Park from Baltimore City Recreation and Parks. As defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), a "net benefit" is achieved when a transportation project and the mitigation measures incorporated result in an overall enhancement of a Section 4(f) property, when compared to the avoidance alternatives and its present condition.

Following a 30-day public comment period and concurrence from the Director of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, FHWA can make its net benefit determination.

Please note that this public notice is specifically for the use of Swann Park and NOT for the entire I-95 Access Improvements project. If you have general comments regarding the overall project, provide your comments through the project website at http://mdta.maryland.gov/Capital_Projects/I-95_Access_Study/Home.html or I-95AccessStudy@mdta.maryland.gov.

Please Send Us Your Comments

If you have comments specific to the use of Swann Park, please submit them by May 28, 2018.

Please send all comments to:

Maryland Transportation Authority

Attn: Ms. Melissa Bogdan

Re: Use of Gwynns Falls Trail

2310 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

Email: mbogdan@mdta.maryland.gov